



Fluttering Friends

Our Mission: To study and research the population of butterflies found in our area, educate ourselves and the community through shared education, create butterfly gardens and habitats, conduct field trips, participate in the annual butterfly count, and have fun.

President's Message

Greetings Fellow Butterfliers,

Have you ever noticed how butterflies pop up everywhere once you are "hooked"? (Did you just see a skipper?) Friends buy you birthday cards with butterflies (even on gifts you get), and watch you closely to see if you noticed. They are on clothes, pillows, purses, jewelry. Even songs have been written about them... "And butterflies are free to fly... Fly away..."

A sprinkling of references to butterflies can be found in a huge number of books. In "Sleeping at the Starlite Motel" by Bailey White, a wondrously humorous author learns about butterflies from a Georgia butterfly field guide naturalist and also the gardens to attract them, both nectar and host plants. White writes about the fields being transformed into a "butterfly paradise", with butterflies floating over colorful flowers as they "leisurely glide, looping and soaring and lighting and laying eggs".

Every year we traipse through fellow members' generously hosted home gardens to see the "butterfly paradise" they created. Aren't those gardeners something? I have been told that the annual butterfly garden tour is the highlight of the year for the club, possibly their favorite part of the club one said. To all of you that have hosted the tour this year and in the past, you have inspired and entertained so many in the club and we all thank you. So do the butterflies, but you knew that.

We have been fascinated by butterflies for eons. Whatever floats your boat... or butterflies.

"All for the love of butterflies"

Karen Anthonisen Finch



NEWS FROM NABA

The NABA Memorial Day Count (in the United States) will be held May 27-29, 2017.

All you need to do is to observe butterflies at one or more of your favorite butterflying localities (such as your own backyard) this coming Memorial Day weekend and note what butterflies you've seen. There are no requirements regarding how much time or area you cover.

Then go to the NABA web site, www.naba.org, and from there to the "Butterflies I've Seen" web pages and enter your report, filling in the location, date, and butterflies seen

Coming Attractions:

May 12 — SCBC Butterfly Count

May 13 — Field Trip to Felts Preserve

May 25 — Annual Members' Meeting, Potluck and Raffle

see page 8 for more info

Can You Help?

Still Needed:

**Publicity Coordinator &
Club Secretary**



NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

From this:



To This!!



Photo by John Tristan

Susah Kershaw put the finishing touches to a lovely makeover of the LaBrie garden sign. Using "Disney colors", Susan was showing the artistry that she used

for several decades at Walt Disney World in Orlando. A member of both the Sarasota Garden and Butterfly Clubs, Susan's artistic talent has been frequently seen at many club events (think table favors at recent club raffle events). Thank you, Susan, the sign looks glorious!

Help, Help, Help!!!

The garden crew size is dwindling to dangerously low levels and the summer is fast approaching.

Between unfortunate illnesses and several volunteers moving out of the area, we're almost down to a skeletal crew. The garden is in good shape today, but once the heat and rains get going, the weeds will do likewise.

Help will definitely be needed to keep ahead of the game. PLEASE, consider volunteering for an hour or two on Fridays. No long term commitment. Just come when you can.

The Butterflies will love you for it—and so will Catherine!



Community Outreach

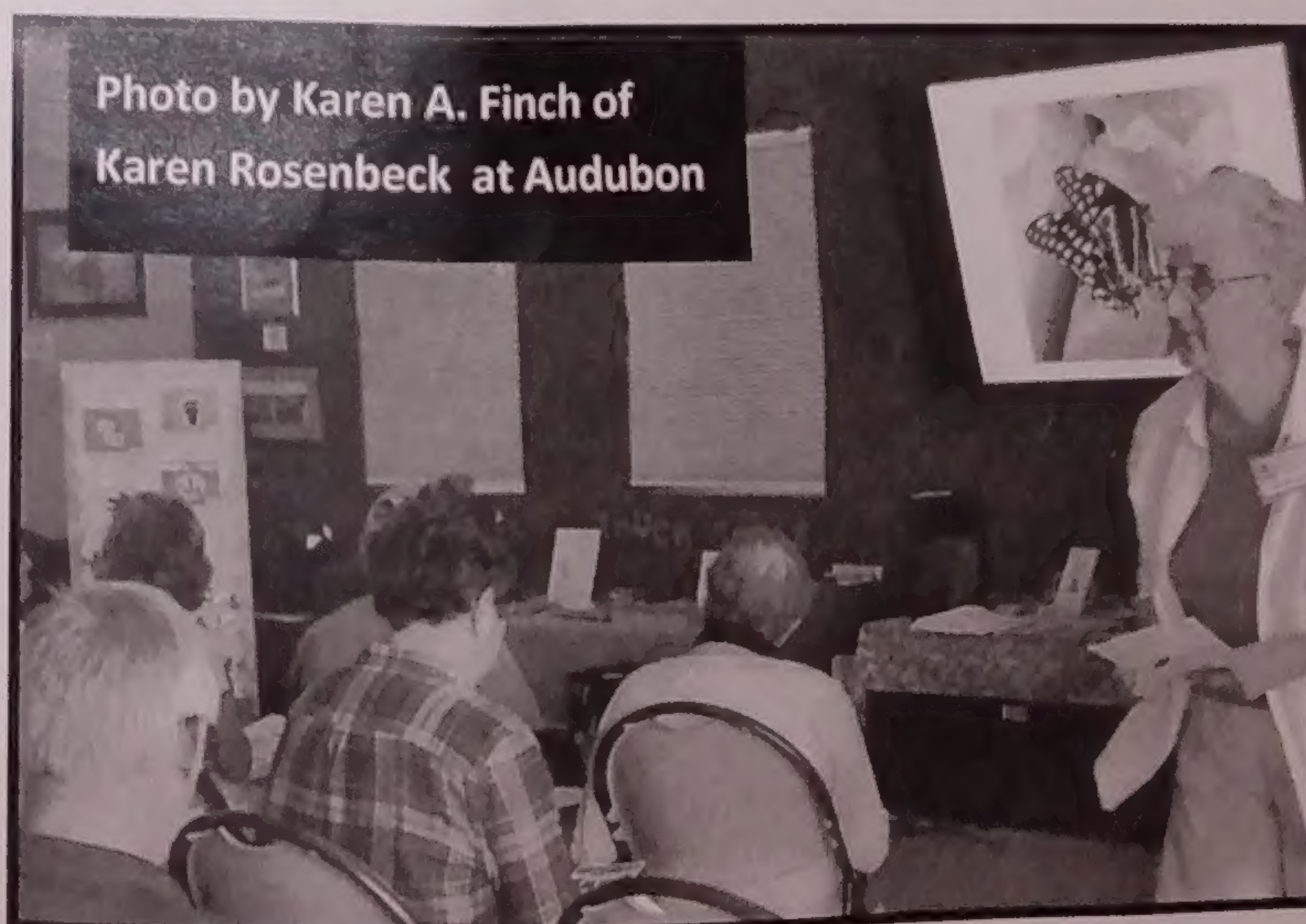
Butterfly 101 ID Crash Course at Sarasota Audubon

On April 5th, the Karen and Karen Show went on the road again, presenting a butterfly identification course for the Sarasota Audubon at Celery Fields.

Describing almost 40 common Florida butterflies, the presentation by Karen Finch and Karen Rosenbeck received very positive feedback.

Kathryn Young of the Sarasota Audubon wrote: "50 was a very good estimate of the number of people at the butterfly WS (workshop). I thought the Workshop was FANTASTIC! I loved that it was not complicated and that you used mnemonics. The photos were wonderful and we all learned a great deal. You kept our attention - it wasn't boring and drawn out. It was really well done, very professional, and you both worked well together."

Photo by Karen A. Finch of
Karen Rosenbeck at Audubon

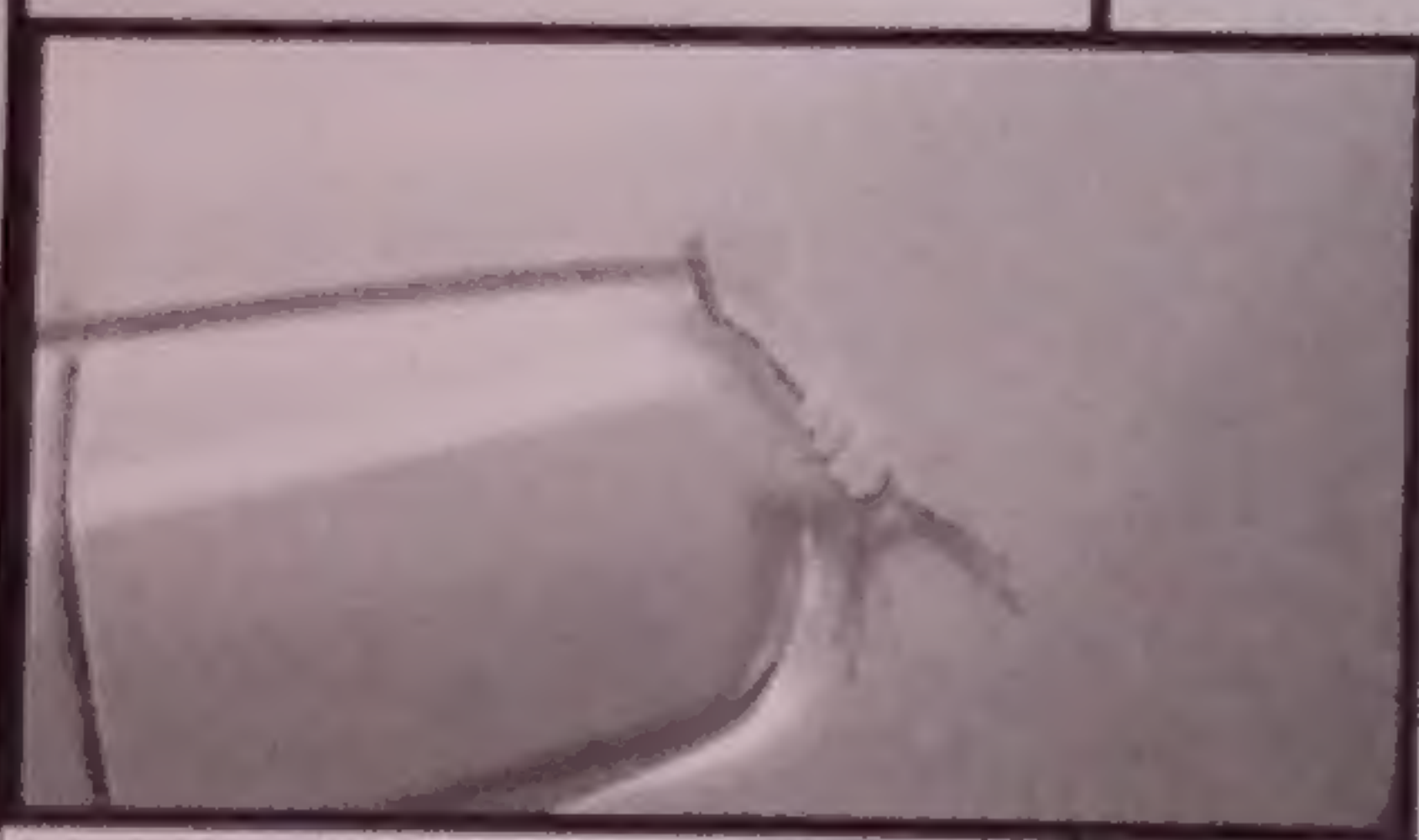


Serenoa Spring Plant Sale

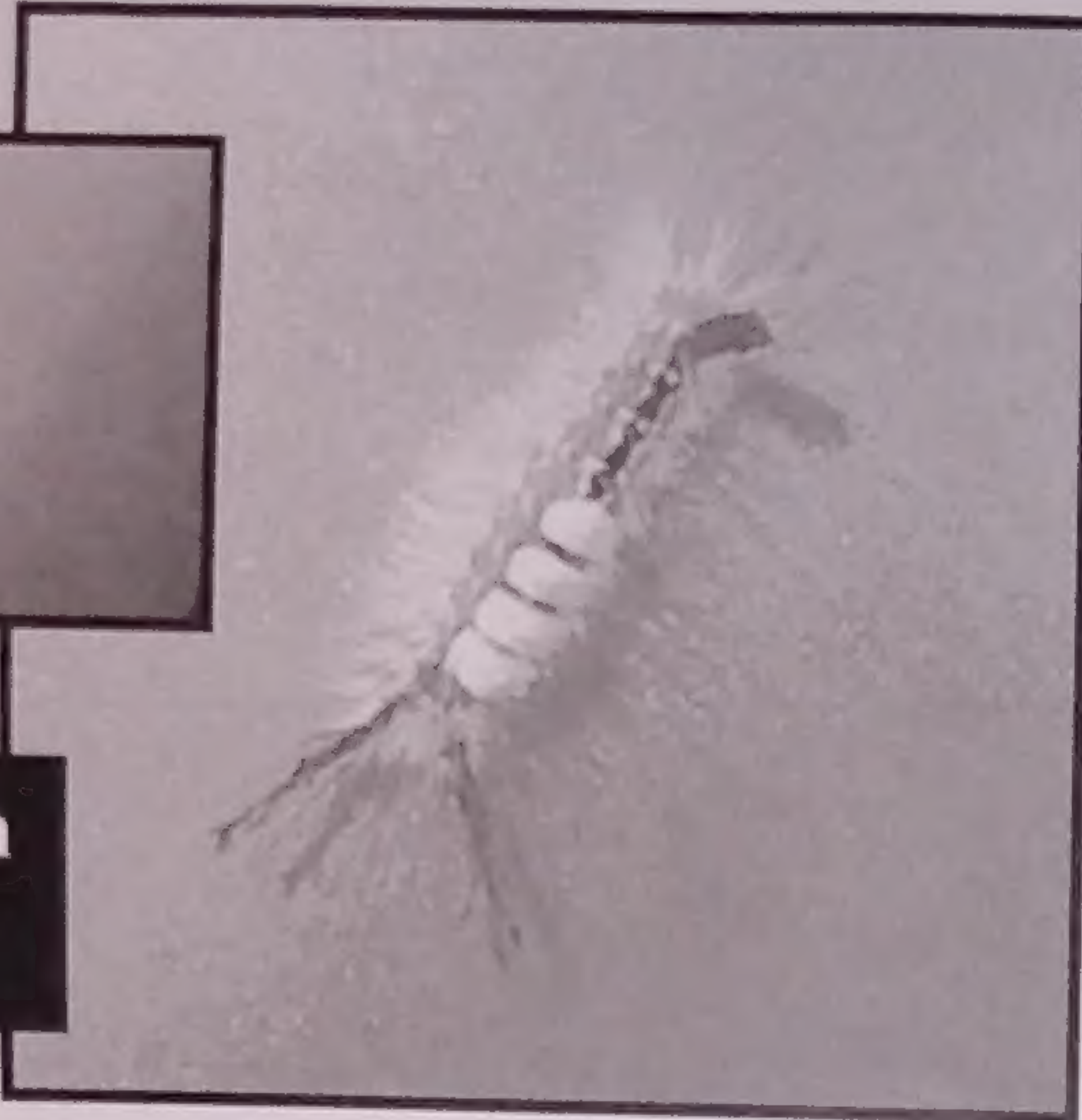
Michele Bellerue took the time to provide Butterfly Club information and literature for several hours at Sweet Bay Nursery on April 8th. She reported that it was a enjoyable event and that several people showed interest in learning more (joining?) our club. Thank you, Michele!!

What Members are Seeing / Talking About

Karen Finch: Don't touch! You may find this on your car like I did. They can irritate the skin of sensitive people.



Fir Tussock Moth caterpillar.



Bob Haynes shared pictures of several flashy visitors to his yard: A Southern Oak Hairstreak on dill and a Fiery Skipper on Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow blossoms.



Karen Rosenbeck: At the end of March, I (so sad) had to remove a large, diseased Laurel Oak from my back yard. This now wide-open, very sunny space has really drawn in the butterflies! A recent butterfly list includes: White Peacock, Fiery Skipper, Long-tailed Skipper, (unknown) hairstreak, Horace's Duskywing, Orange-barred Sulphur, Cassius Blues galore, Gulf Fritillaries, Zebra Longwings and Monarchs. No Swallowtails as yet. I'm also seeing more dragonflies which used to be in abundance, then all but disappeared for several years.

Top: Southern Oak Hairstreak

Right: Fiery Skipper



Lynn Coppage and Will Hayes: Saw their first Julia Heliconians at the Naples Botanical Garden. Photos by Lynn Coppage; top female (with dark wing markings), bottom, male (none to minimal markings)

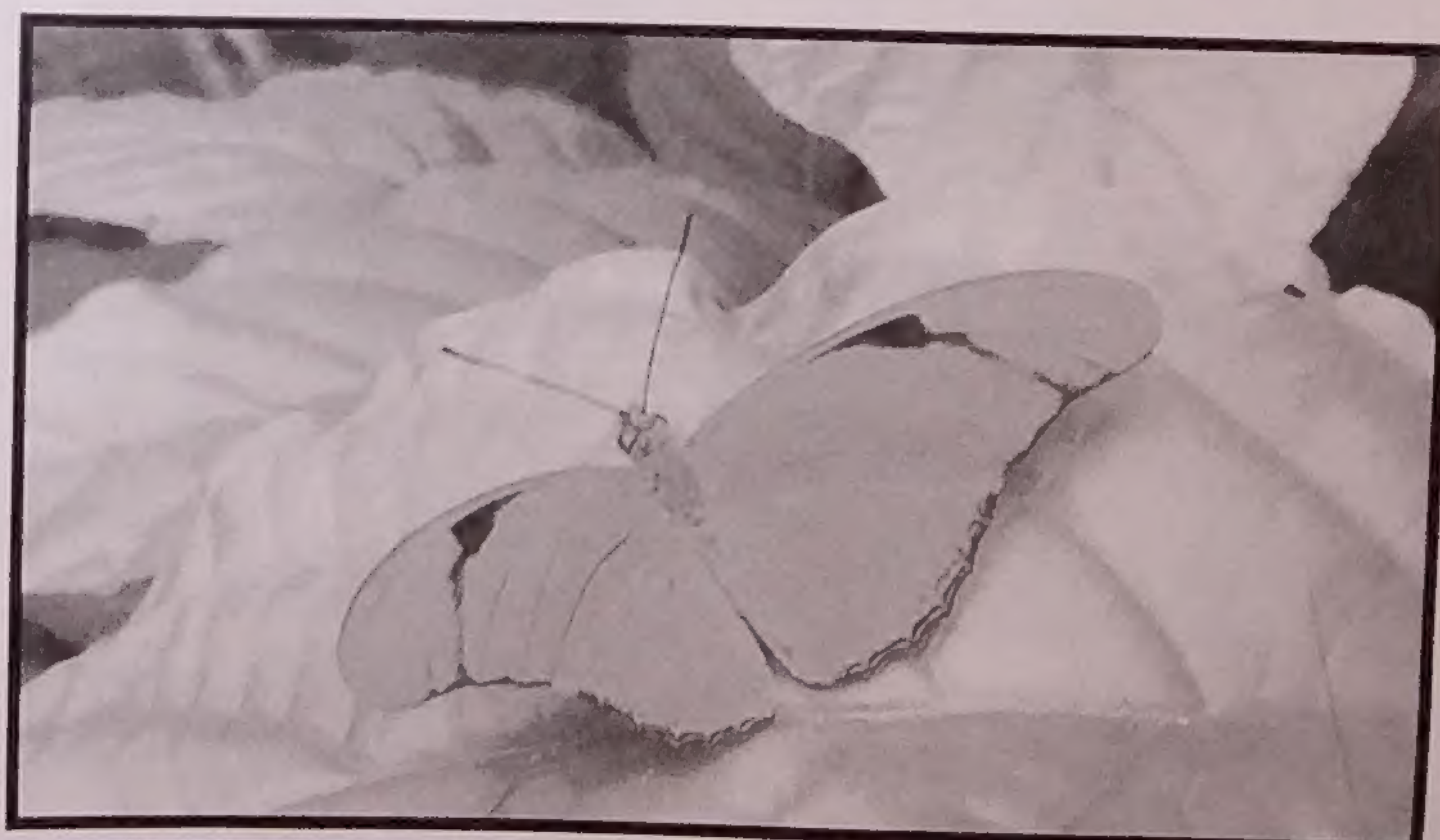


Cassius Blue, dorsal and ventral views



Right Top: Fiery Skipper, female

Right Bottom: male Easter Amberwing Dragonfly on salvia



NAME THAT WEED by Will Hayes

Author: Our official definition of a weed is any plant that grows prolifically in the WRONG place. My focus in writing these how-to columns about taming weeds has been restricted to those that have cursed the four properties we have owned during our 17 years in Florida.

After visiting a foraging class taught last autumn by "Green Deane" Jordan, I selected this month's Good Weed. Mr. Jordan has twice extolled the virtues of munching the leaves of this month's WOTM because his legal department allows it; we don't advocate eating ANY roadside weed because we don't know what your neighbors might have sprayed on them.

This marks my 24th weed column for the SCBC monthly newsletter. What a journey this has been for me, a former "knuckle dragger" who hated ALL weeds two short years ago. Thanks to the patience and coaching of my mentors (y'all know who you are!) I have



come to the realization that many plants have natural attributes that far outweigh their "bad habit" of over-reproduction. That's why half my monthly weed columns have featured so-called "good weeds." For my final newsletter column, I've selected a prolific weed that I still pull up in my yard, but I don't ever expect to vanquish (nor do I hope to do so).

May's WOTM was originally native to Japan & China, but has essentially been naturalized throughout the southeast for more than a century. It resembles a dandelion with a deep taproot and bright yellow flowers growing on tall stalks. There are about 200 different species within the genus; all produce seeds loved by birds on puff-ball heads less than one-quarter the diameter of dandelion. This biennial WOTM is locally prolific, tending to grow in "colonies" of perhaps a dozen or so.

The main distinction of May's WOTM from Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) is that single dandelion blossoms grow close to the ground and require full sun to really thrive, whereas this mysterious WOTM can grow multiple yellow blossoms in full shade, the stems often reaching 18-20" in length.



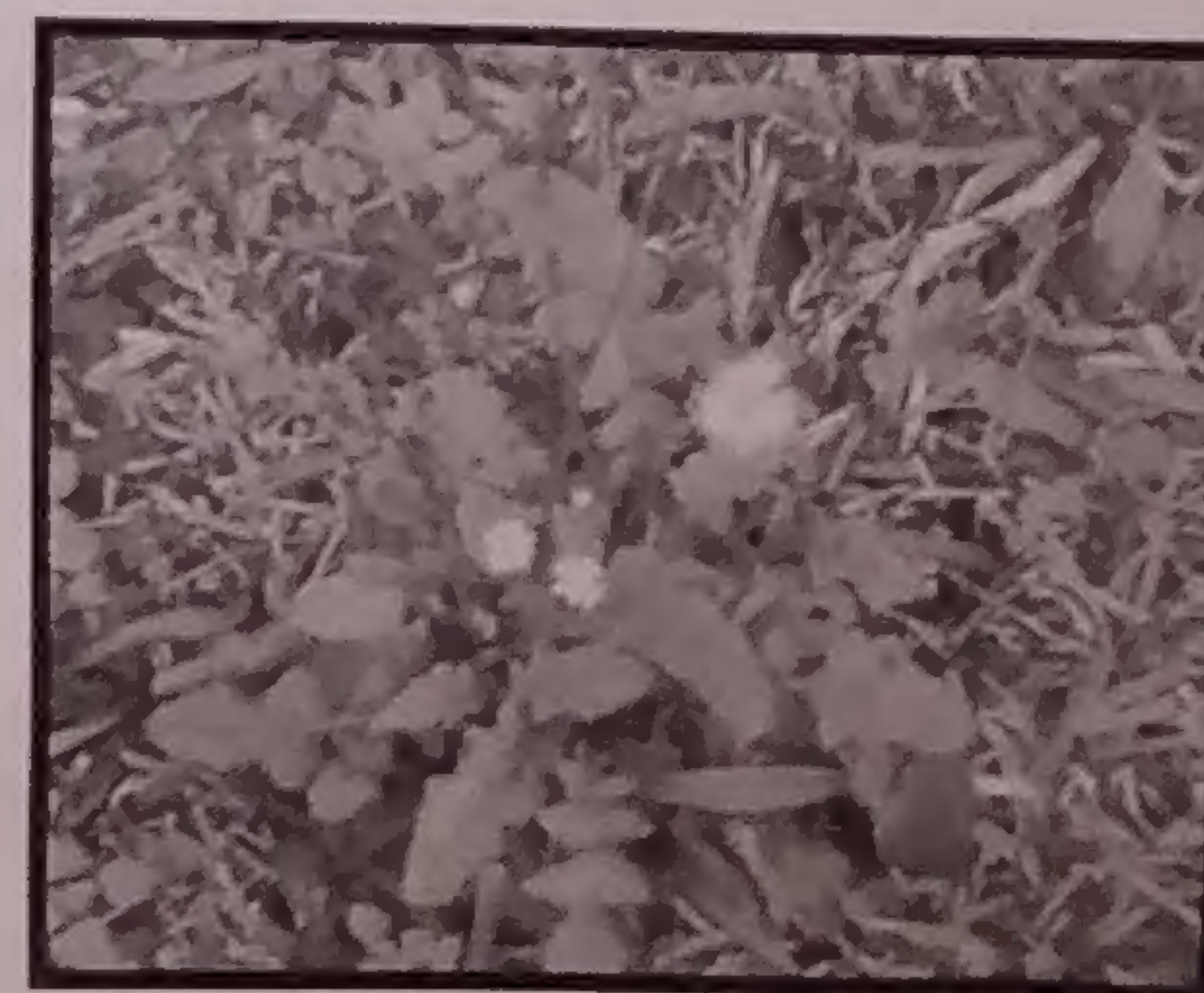
May's Weed of the Month has the following characteristics:

LEAVES: The leaves of the WOTM are frequently as wrinkled as crepe paper, much like the Latin name implies. Often, 3" finely toothed leaves grow outward from a "basal rosette."

FLOWERS: Several 1/4" yellow flowerheads pollinated by insects grow on each panicle.

"Hello. My name is (False) Asiatic Hawksbeard (*Crepis japonica*), and I'm a WEED."

I may also be known by my other nicknames such as Japanese hawkweed or Oriental false hawkbeard.



For such a common and prolific weed here in Florida, the WOTM has surprisingly little written about it.

For the opinion of "Green Deane" Jordan, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ilk3VWHbCw>, or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDeBOIRhQEs>

Butterfly of the Month: Mangrove Butterflies by Karen Rosenbeck

If you find yourself out and about in the presence of mangroves, there are two butterflies that use them as host plants: the Mangrove Skipper and the Mangrove Buckeye.

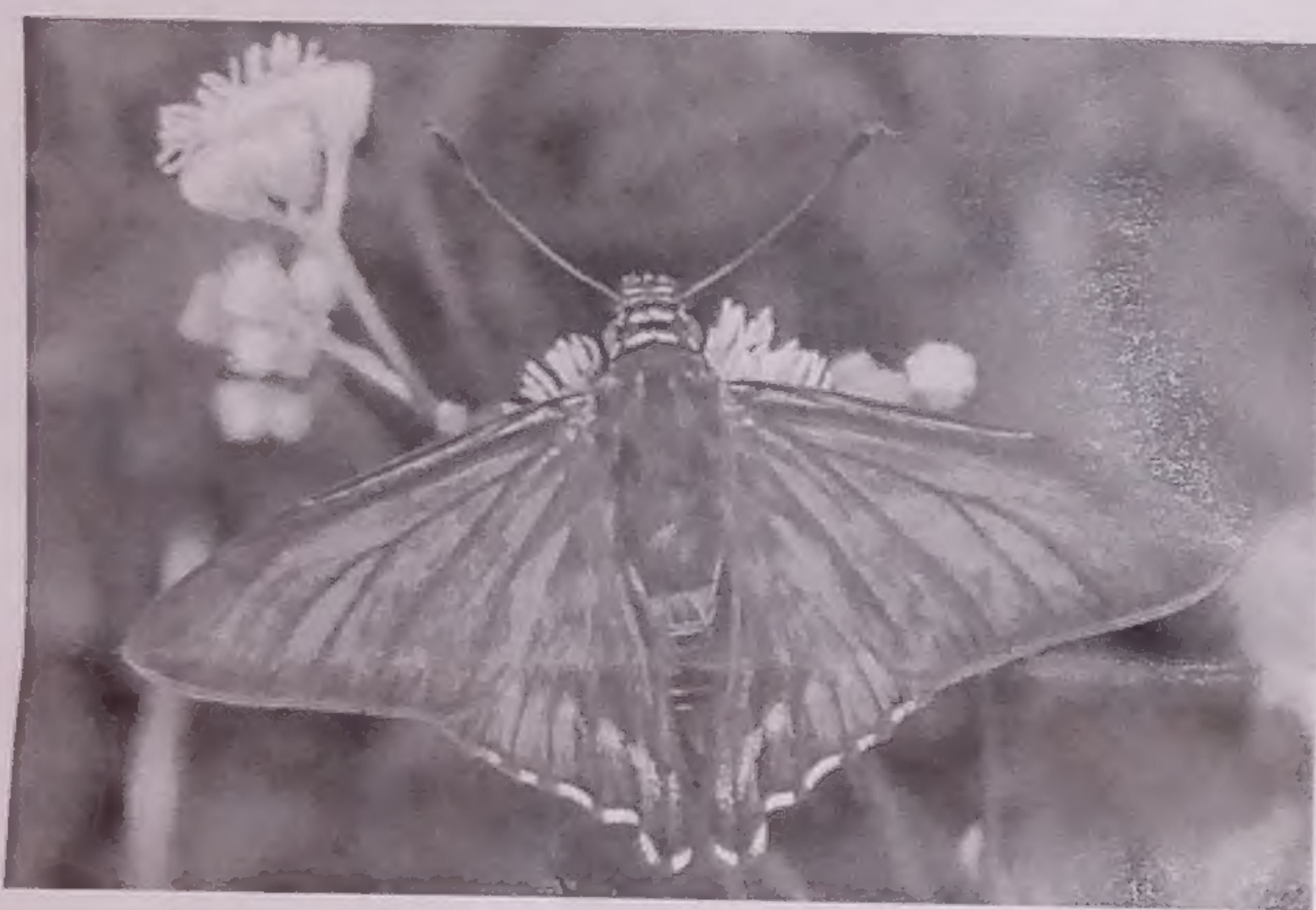
The **Mangrove Skipper** is an occasional to commonly occurring spreadwing skipper in our area, especially between November to August. This large skipper uses the American or Red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) as a host plant, found mostly along the coastal water's edge. Eggs are laid singly on leaves of the plant and caterpillars live in shelters of silked-together leaves.

The Mangrove Skipper is impressive in size (2-2.5" wingspan) and color (brownish black with iridescent blue scaling) and is a real eye-catcher. When feeding, it usually sits with its wings spread wide, allowing for easy observation of the brilliant blue iridescence across wings

that end in a small, stubby tail with a submarginal row of faint light blue spots. The male and female are similar. Their flight is fast and powerful and males perch to seek females. The Mangrove Skipper nectars on flowers including those of mangrove, shepherd's needle, citrus, and bougainvillea.

This beauty has been an occasional visitor in the club's butterfly garden.

Moving further away from the water's edge to tidal flats, salt marshes and black mangrove swamps is the Black Mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), host plant for the **Mangrove Buckeye**. Although occasionally to locally abundant throughout the Keys and extreme southern Florida, it has been spotted in our area as far north as Pinellas County. Adults have a low rapid flight and often alight on bare soil or low vegetation.



Mangrove Skipper

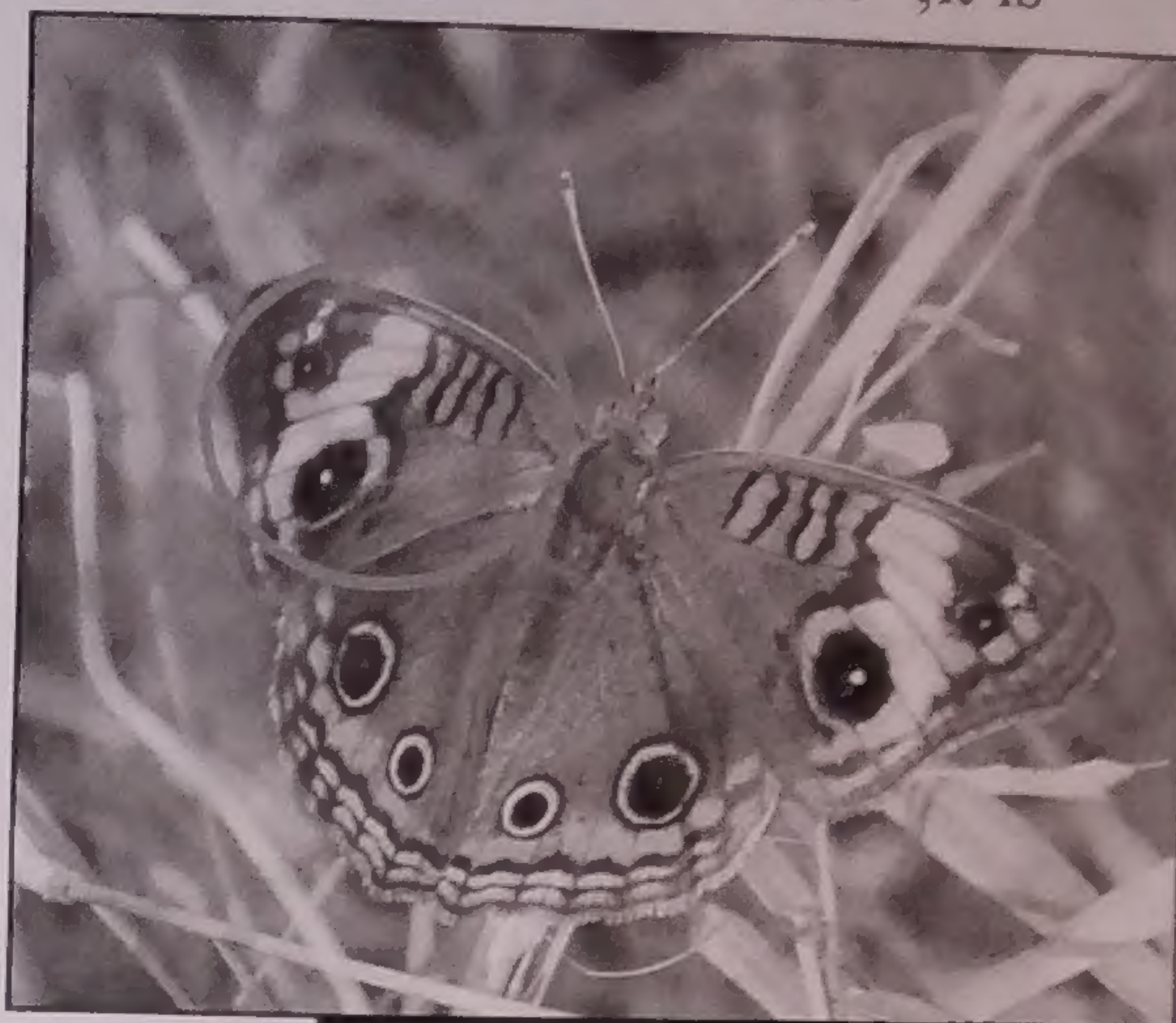


Males establish territories and actively investigate passing intruders.

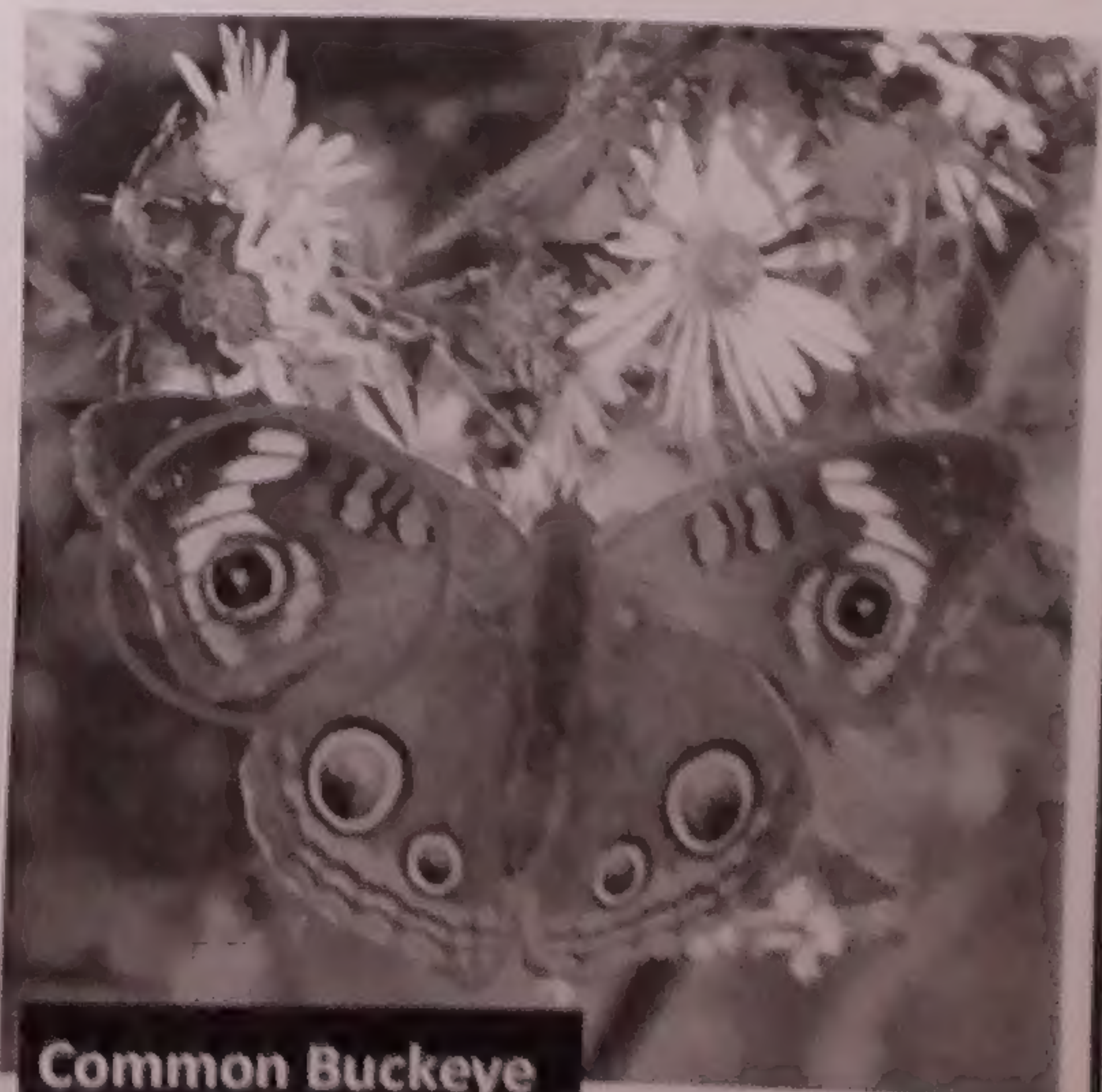
The Mangrove Buckeye lives up to its name with large eyespots. With a wingspan of 2 – 2.75", it is brown above with light orange forewing and submarginal hindwing bands. The forewing has a prominent dark eyespot ringed by orange but never with a secondary brown band, and two vertical orange bars like epaulets along its coastal margin; the hindwing bears two large eyespots ringed in orange and brown. Below, the forewing shows muted markings, while the hindwing is brown with faint pattern elements and small eyespots. The sexes are similar except that the female has broader wings and larger hindwing eyespots.

Comparison to Common Buckeye: On initial sighting, the Mangrove Buckeye might be confused with the Common Buckeye. However, the Common Buckeye is smaller

(2.5 – 2.7"), has prominent white (rather than pale orange) forewing bands, and has white and a distinct secondary brown band around the forewing eyespot. The Common Buckeye is usually found in fields, pastures, roadsides, pineland and disturbed sites.



Mangrove Buckeye



Common Buckeye

(Photos from: bugguide.com and Wikipedia.com)

More about Mangroves in Florida

The term "mangrove" does not refer to a specific taxonomic group of species, but to all halophytic (plants growing in saline soils) species of tropical trees and shrubs. This catchall, diverse group includes 12 families and more than 50 species (worldwide). Although unrelated, all are adapted to life in wet soils, saline habitats, and periodic tidal submergence.

There are four species of mangroves that can be found in Florida: Red, Black, and White Mangrove trees and Buttonwood. All may grow along the same shoreline. When these species are found together, each is limited to different areas within the tidal zone. This zonation is determined by tidal changes, elevation of the land, and salinity of the soil and water.



Red mangroves are found along the water's edge, with full exposure to tidal variation and winds. They are well adapted to these conditions with prop roots extending from the trunk and branches. These tangles of root systems increase stability as well as capturing sediments from the surrounding water. Moving further inland, is the black mangrove, with pneumatophores extending upwards from the soils surrounding the trunk. These root adaptations are used to supply oxygen to the underground roots that are often in anaerobic (oxygen-free) sediments. White mangroves, often lacking special root adaptations, occur in the interior of the mangrove forest, followed by the buttonwood in the upland transitional area.

Copied from: <https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/southflorida/habitats/mangroves/about>



NEWS FROM NABA

Mike Cerbone (NABA Administrator) recently posted the following on NABA-Chat regarding neonicotinoids and plant nurseries:

"Springtime is here, and that means trips to your local nursery! Something to keep in mind this season, however, is the presence of neonicotinoids in the plants you may be purchasing. These substances are toxic to pollinators like butterflies and bees, and should absolutely be avoided! Although I have started to see some recent improvement in the self-reporting of pesticides containing neonicotinoids at some commercial nurseries and similar stores, keep in mind that many vendors still do not identify if their plants contain neonicotinoids. In some cases, they may not be informed themselves (as they are obtaining their plants from a source that also does not self-report this). Contact your vendor to find out if their plants are treated with neonicotinoids, and inquire about where they source their plants from. You should urge vendors to stop carrying plants treated with these kinds of chemicals that can harm wildlife!"

Butterfly Plants—Not To Plant **Category I Invasive (damaging native habitat) or** **Category II Invasive (potential for damage)**

Host Plants:

Rosary Pea
(Abrus precatorius)
 Category I Invasive;
 Host Plant for
 Cassius Blue



Two-flowered passion vine
(Passiflora biflora)
 Category II Invasive;
 Host Plant for Gulf
 Fritillary and Zebra
 Heliconian



Mexican Petunia
(Ruellia simplex)
 Category I Invasive;
 Host Plant for
 White Peacock



Red Passion Flower
(Passiflora coccinea)
Not invasive, but does not
 support caterpillars of
 Gulf Fritillary and
 Zebra Heliconian

**Climbing Cassia,
 Christmas Cassia,
 Christmas senna**
*(Senna pendula var.
 glabrata)*
 Category I Invasive;
 Host Plant for
 Sulphur butterflies



Nectar Plants:

Lantana, shrub verbena
*(Lantana camara =
 L. strigocamara)*
 Category I Invasive



Calico flower pipevine
(Aristolochia littoralis)
 Category II Invasive;
 Host Plant for
 Polydamas and
 Pipevine Swallowtails



Caesar's weed
(Urena lobata)
 Category I Invasive

Nettle-leaved Porterweed
*(Stachytarpheta cayennensis =
 S. urticifolia)*
 Category II Invasive



To get more information about invasive category definitions
 as well as the entire 2015 Florida Invasive Plant List, go to:
<http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm>



**Please Come On Down to
Our Last Meeting of this Season!!
Thursday, May 25th
10:30 am—1:30 pm**



**Annual Meeting & Members'
Appreciation
Potluck Luncheon & a "Raffle-Dazzle" Raffle**

**Bring a potluck dish, a guest or two, some \$\$ for raffle tickets
and your smiles and laughter!**

**Sarasota Garden Club
1131 Boulevard of the Arts
(Members and their guests only)**

**Want to be a Spotter for the
May Butterfly Count?**

Friday, May 12th, the Butterfly Club will be counting butterflies at Celery Fields, Rothenbach Park and Crowley Museum with count leaders Jean Evoy, Karen Finch and Laurel Rhodes

If you are interested in joining the count, contact Jean Evoy or Karen Finch ASAP
(see contact info on pg. 11)
Attendance will be limited.

Raffle Items Wanted!

**contact Bev Blair
(bjblair@hotmail.com)
or Karen
Rosenbeck
(karen.rosenbeck@gmail.com) with
your donations!**

**Saturday, May 13, 9am
Field Trip to Felts Preserve
4600 24th Ave E, Palmetto, FL 34221**

This is a combined field trip with the local chapter of Florida Native Plant Society.

Come learn about native plants while spotting our native butterflies!

Meet at the main parking lot.

SAVE THE DATE

TEAMS
Butterfly Festival

Nov. 4-7, 2017
National Butterfly Center
Mission, Texas

Club Contacts

OFFICERS		PLANNING COMMITTEE	
President: Karen Anthonisen Finch karenfincheval@yahoo.com 727-470-4622		Treasurer/Membership: Jim Slaminko jimslaminko13@gmail.com 941-921-9597	Outreach/Publicity: (Position available)
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Co-Vice-President: Jean Evoy 863-558-5417 jevoy@bio.miami.edu		Garden Consultants: Richard and Catherine LaBrie (no email) 941-955-2644	Webmaster/ Beverly Bowen 941-966-5342 Beverly@BeverlyBowen.com
Secretary (Acting): Karen Rosenbeck Karen.rosenbeck@gmail.com 941-360-8869 or cell 860-307-3346		Refreshments: Jackie Fountaine Katzenhundel@gmail.com 941-955-5569	Member-at-Large: Susan Mathias bflyblessings@gmail.com 941-350-6836



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**Attention Members—New and Renewing**

Please send your membership check and form to us, your local Sarasota Club: Sarasota County Butterfly Club, 1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34246-4809. Enroll and renew through us—we will forward your application and dues to NABA. You will receive NABA publications (*Butterfly Gardener* and *American Butterflies*) as well as our newsletter and updates without interruption. Also, let us know if you *DO NOT* want to share your contact information with other Club members. Thank you.



Sarasota County
Butterfly Club
NABA Chapter

Membership Application

Name:		Annual Dues: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35.00 (\$70 outside U.S., Can., Mex.) <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$45.00 (\$90 outside U.S., Can., Mex.) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if renewing	
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone:	Cell:	Other:	
E-Mail Address:		<input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Share contact information with other club members	
Make checks payable to Sarasota County Butterfly Club, NABA Chapter Mail check and form to: Sarasota County Butterfly Club 1131 Boulevard of the Arts Sarasota, FL, 34236-4809			

Club Events Calendar: May 2017

- ⇒ **May 12, 2017, Friday, times tba; Sarasota East Butterfly Count at Rothenbach Park, Celery Fields and Crowley Museum.** Members only & Invited Guests only and attendance limited. Sign up with Jean Evoy or Karen Finch.
- ⇒ **May 13, 2017, 9 am, Field Trip to Felts Preserve in Palmetto;** combined field trip with Florida Native Plant Society chapter. Meet at parking lot. 4600 24th Ave E, Palmetto, FL 34221. No fee.
- ⇒ **May 25, 2017, Thursday, 11 am, Annual Members Meeting and Appreciation Day, Potluck and Raffle.** Sarasota Garden Club 1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota. *Members & Invited Guests only*
- ⇒ **July 27, 2017, Thursday, 9:30 am, Summer Social Breakfast,** location tba
- ⇒ **August 24, 2017, Thursday, 9:30 am, Summer Social Breakfast,** location tba



Sarasota County Butterfly Club
1131 Boulevard of the Arts
Sarasota, FL, 34236-4809